Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended)   A system for providing email communications, comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory and configured to execute an e-mail client application, which includes:

message composition logic operable to compose a message to at least one recipient;

write protect logic operable to protect the message against subsequent alteration by the at least one recipient, upon receiving a user indication to enable the write protect logic through conversion of a format of ~~the~~ a text in a body of the message to a format protected against alterations.

2. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to convert the text in the body of the message from a text format to a picture format.

3. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 2, wherein the text in the body of the message converted to the picture format is included as an inline image within the transmitted message.

4. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 2, wherein the text in the body of the message in the picture format is stored on a central server for retrieval by the recipient.

5. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 2, wherein the text in the body of the message converted to the picture format is included as an attachment to the transmitted message.

6. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 2, wherein the picture format is a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) file.

7. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 2, wherein the picture format is a graphics image format (GIF) file.

8. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to convert the text <u>in the body</u> of the message from a text format to a portable document format (PDF).

9. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the composition logic is operable to allow the user to compose a new message, a reply to a received message or forward a received message.

10. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the client further comprises a user interface operable to allow the user to select a plurality of options, including enabling the write protect logic.

11. (Currently Amended)   A method of protecting e-mail, the method comprising:
        enabling a user to draft a message; and
        converting a content <u>in a body</u> of the message into a write-protected format such that recipients are inhibited from altering the content <u>in the body of the message</u>.

12. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a portable document format (PDF).

13. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a graphics image format (GIF).

14. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected format comprises a joint photographic experts group (JPEG).

15. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:
        enabling the user to choose whether to protect the message or not;

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wherein converting <u>the content in the body of</u> the message into a write-protected format is performed responsive to user choice.

16. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises sending the content <u>in the body</u> of the message to at least one recipient in the write-protected format.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message is stored on a central server for viewing by the user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message is downloaded to a computer for viewing by the user.

19. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 16, wherein the content <u>in the body</u> of the message in the write-protected format is included in the sent message as an inline image file.

20. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 16, wherein the content <u>in the body</u> of the message in the write-protected format is included in the sent message as an attachment.